

App. No. 09/609,494
Amendment Dated: April 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18, 25-36, 42-49, and 57-59 are pending in the application. The Office Action dated February 9, 2004 allowed Claims 1-18, 25-36 and 42-49. Claims 19, 20, 24, 37-41 and 50-56 are rejected. Claims 21-23 are objected to. Claims 19-24, 37-41, and 50-56 have been canceled. Claims 57-59 have been added. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejected claims 37-41 and 50-56 under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed inventions are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 37-41 and 50-56 have been canceled.

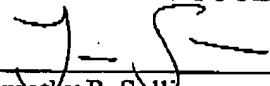
The Office Action rejected claims 19-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Ruf. Claims 19-24 have been canceled.

The Office Action objected to Claims 21-23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Claims 57-59 have been added. Claim 57 has been added to include the limitations of canceled Claims 19 and Claim 23. Claim 58 has been added to include the limitations of canceled Claims 19, 20 and 21. Claim 59 has been added to include the limitations of canceled Claims 19, 20, and 21 and 22.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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